



# **NATIVE VILLAGE OF BARROW IÑUPIAT TRADITIONAL GOVERNMENT**

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The Native Village of Barrow applauds the bi-partisan effort of Congressmen Steve Pearce, Congressman Don Young, and their co-sponsors in introducing legislation to re-authorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (“NAHASDA”). NAHASDA is a critical piece of legislation providing the framework for Indian tribes to develop and maintain affordable housing for low-income tribal members. Reauthorization is a necessary step in protecting and enhancing tribal housing programs around the country. The bill introduced today contains many important provisions supported by Indian Country that will ensure that tribes have the tools and the flexibility necessary to meet the significant demand for affordable housing that is safe and secure. The Native Village of Barrow greatly appreciates the leadership of Congressmen Young and Pearce in the ongoing effort to reauthorize NAHASDA, and we call on Congress to move forward expeditiously to reauthorize NAHASDA.

The Native Village of Barrow is located at the northernmost tip of Alaska, and due to severe weather and a remote location faces some of the most challenging conditions for developing housing anywhere in the United States. The Native Village of Barrow has 3,934 tribal members. The Native Village of Barrow’s Housing Program (NVBHP) operates an affordable housing program under NAHASDA and provides the following services: new construction, rehabilitation of existing homes, emergency repairs to existing homes, building handicap access ramps, homeless assistance, downpayment assistance, and real estate acquisitions. NVBHP currently operates 44 units, which involve a mixture of new construction and major renovations. NVBHP does not have any rentals. Current projects include a Low Income Housing Tax Credit project of 20 new construction homes. We currently have a 10 year wait list for new construction and 4 year wait list for major renovations. Reauthorization of NAHASDA is absolutely critical to preserve and enhance the tools available to NVBHP to provide housing for its most vulnerable members.

For more information contact:

Samuel Okakok, Housing Director  
Housing Department  
Native Village of Barrow  
[SamOkakok@nvbarrow.net](mailto:SamOkakok@nvbarrow.net)